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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,953	11/26/2001	Tosiyasu L. Kunii	13826	5231
293	7590	04/21/2006	EXAMINER	
Ralph A. Dowell of DOWELL & DOWELL P.C. 2111 Eisenhower Ave Suite 406 Alexandria, VA 22314			CUFF, MICHAEL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/991,953	KUNII, TOSIYASU L.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Michael Cuff	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 6-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 6-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20051026.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 6-17 are objected to as mixing many method steps into an apparatus claim. This is discussed in the argument section.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunphy et al.

Dunphy et al teaches an electronic commercial transaction supporting system and method comprising the steps of: extracting correspondence/predetermined equivalence relations (numerical laws) between attributes of a plurality of subjects (see col. 6, lines 8-25), wherein the relations are determined by respective viewpoints or subspaces (see col. 3, lines 5-21); recording extracted correspondence relations to a cellular space (see col. 3, for example, lines 22-30)., and presenting the relations at a stage of an electronic commercial transaction (see, for example, col. 1 , lines 15-23). The extracting, storing, and presenting are repeated cyclically in such a way as to effect feedback (see col. 6, lines 54-65). Breaking the parts down into a characteristic

database is the equivalent to employing cellular decomposition (nonempty equivalence characteristics or classes).

Dunphy et al do not teach a plurality of shops connected to a network. Dunphy instead teaches a plurality of manufacturers (see col. 1, lines 14-32). However, it is common in the art for manufacturers to also function as shops. It would have been obvious to employ manufacturers that also function as shops with the invention of Dunphy et al to allow for direct sales to increase profits.

Dunphy et al further teach a business information management system (101) comprising a first functional block which transversely refers to respective data tables of the plurality of manufacturers (see col. 3, lines 5-21)', a second functional block which detects a desired correspondence relation (see col. 3, for example, lines 22-30)\*, and a third functional block (correspondence presenting unit) which presents the detected desired correspondence at a stage of an electronic commercial transaction (see col. 1, for example, Fig. 8). Dunphy et al. further teach the functional block that detects an inconsistent correspondence relation (see col. 10, lines 30-39).

Claims 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunphy et al in view of Spiegel et al.

Dunphy et al teach all of the limitations detailed in paragraph 4 of this Office Action. Dunphy et al do not teach the step of accumulating extracted correspondence relations in a data table based on actual examples of an electronic commercial transaction. Spiegel et al teach a method of extracting attributes and accumulating them

in a data table based on actual examples of an electronic commercial transaction (see, for example, Fig. 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Spiegel et al with the invention of Dunphy et al to accumulate attributes in a data table based on actual examples of an electronic commercial transactions to create a data table that meets consumer needs.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 11/16/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that the limitation "wherein the correspondence presenting unit reads out and presents ..." is not shown. Applicant has chosen to claim an apparatus claim and this limitation is a method step and does not further limit the apparatus being claimed. There are many examples of this in applicant's independent claim. The examiner recommends applicant review MPEP 2106 for guidance on how to claim a computer apparatus. One possible change could be something like the correspondence presenting unit configured to read and present ..."'

Pages 8-13 discuss the "long-felt, but unsolved need" for the invention. These have been considered, but do not overcome the current rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cuff whose telephone number is (571) 272-6778. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Michael Cuff 4/17/06*  
Michael Cuff  
April 17, 2006